

terms of the safety of the people of Alaska. I am sure if that plan has been made, there is a plan to launch missiles from that test site as part of a test, not in response to some accidental launch—and I could not agree more with the Senator from Arizona, if we had missiles in the ground and if we saw a launch come at us, we would use them in the hope that they might work. I have no doubt about that. I would hope they would work. It would be useful to take the time, expend the energy and the money to make sure they work.

Nevertheless, I have no doubt if we thought they would work 1 in 10, 1 in 1,000, or 1 in 2, we would try.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I knew if we stood here long enough, the Senator from Michigan and I would find something on which to agree.

Mr. LEVIN. We agree on many things, and that would surely be one of them. I think we would also agree that it would be nice if we could expect they would work. I think the Senator from Arizona would agree with that. The greater likelihood they would work, the greater good it is for our Nation.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, of course that is true. I would like to propound some unanimous consent requests on behalf of the leader, if there is no other Senator wishing to speak to this matter.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING TOM LESHENDOK

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tom Leshendok of Sparks, NV, on his selection by the Department of Interior for the Meritorious Service Award. It is my honor to recognize the contributions of this dedicated public servant.

Mr. Leshendok's career has spanned more than three decades and several Federal agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Land Management. In each of these positions, he has contributed tremendously to the effective and responsible management of our public lands and natural resources.

Mr. Leshendok's work as Deputy State Director of Minerals for the Nevada BLM was particularly important to the economy and welfare of my State. Not only does the BLM administer almost 48 million acres of public land in Nevada, it also oversees the production of 72 percent of our Nation's gold and silver.

As the leader of the BLM's largest mining law administration program, Mr. Leshendok was responsible for the leasing and development of geothermal, oil, and gas resources, the Abandoned Mine Lands program, and hazardous material detection and remediation. His ability to craft effective collaborative approaches to these important issues was a hallmark of his leadership at the Nevada BLM.

Please join me in thanking Tom Leshendok for his strong commitment to public service and congratulating him on his selection for the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award.

DAVID A. CHRISTIANSEN—NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate David A. Christiansen, the principal at Huffaker Elementary School in Washoe County, who was selected as Nevada's 2004 National Distinguished Principal.

The National Distinguished Principals Program, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, was established in 1984 to honor exemplary elementary and middle schools from each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

This honor highlights the importance of school principals in building excellent schools, and recognizes their accomplishments and leadership in helping children develop a lifelong love of learning.

Mr. Christiansen has been a principal in the Washoe County School District since 1989, and has served at Huffaker Elementary School since July 2001.

His talent and leadership skills speak volumes. For the last 3 years, Huffaker Elementary School has received awards for academic excellence from the Nevada Department of Education. He also has implemented and enhanced programs in art, science, reading, and physical education.

Mr. Christiansen is the third principal from the Washoe County School District to be named a National Distinguished Principal.

I salute David Christiansen for his service and dedication to the children of Washoe County and extend him my best wishes for a successful future.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On January 25, 1999, Derek Glacken, 27, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without the possi-

bility of parole for the fatal 1996 stabbing of a man whom he believed to be gay.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I rise today to bring attention to the celebration of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States. This day celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

Throughout our history, African Americans have struggled to achieve equality and freedom. They have endured a legacy of slavery and segregation. Through their belief in the American dream, they fought for equal rights and taught the Nation to look past outward appearances and judge a person by their character. Their undying quest to achieve freedom and equality is why I am here today: To honor the day where slaves in some southern States learned of their emancipation.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger went to Texas to proclaim emancipation to Texas slaves. This was the first time that slaves in Texas and other surrounding States found out about their emancipation. He stated, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Following emancipation, ex-slaves entered freedom under the most difficult conditions, penniless and homeless with only the clothes on their back. They began to migrate to the north and to southern States like Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma in search of better lives and a better future for their families. The descendants of these former slaves passed down a tradition of celebrating the emancipation announcement at the end of June because of its significance for African Americans. The term "Juneteenth" reflects the inability of history to identify the exact date all slaves became free in this country. However, the importance of the event is memorialized in this celebration and is often observed as a time to remember the past and look to the future.

The first Juneteenth celebrations were political rallies used to teach freedmen about voting. Cakewalks,